



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 11/12/2008

11VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
NOVEMBER 12, 2008 MEETING

SPY POND COMMITTEE
Selectmen's Hearing Room

Attendance: Brad Barber, Ralph and Lyle Cadorette, Francis Callahan, Bill Eykamp, Elsie Fiore, Jacob Friis, Joey Glushko, Jane and Pete Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Bob Noyes, Dick Terry.

Facilitator: Jacob Friis **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 9, Town Hall Annex, First Floor.

- **Rt.2 path:** After a walk-through with the Town Engineer and some committee members, Ralph Cadorette produced a map showing the problems in the pavement – cracks, gaps, root heaves. The path could be replaced, resurfaced, or repaired. Only the last option could be carried out by volunteers.

Reducing highway noise would be desirable, but a noise-barrier wall is costly and would not be a priority for the state since it would not shield dwellings; it could also make the path less safe (it would shield would-be muggers from being seen from the highway).

The overgrown lot at the Lake St. end of the path is being cleared for construction of a house, but the last trees near the shore have not been cut. Elsie reported that the new owner does not yet have a building permit.

- **Weed treatment:** The botanist has found the endangered sedge in three spots along the shore (none where originally found) and reported the findings and is also circulating them for peer comments. The next step is to await the conditions to be set by Fish & Wildlife. ("Sonar" is a contact poison for leaves, not roots, so it should not be a problem for land plants like the sedge.)

Treatment would have to be done in May. A spring inspection will be needed to determine whether the whole pond or only part of it will have to be treated. Joey will keep after DPW so that the inspection will be requested in time.

We will have to submit a warrant article in January to add \$25,000 to the waterbodies fund. It has about \$35,000 for all ponds but Spy Pond alone will probably cost more.

- **Sandbar:** A meeting is to be set up in the first half of December between MassHighway, Arlington officials, and committee representatives. Former co-chairs Gene Benson and Karsten Hartel should be invited, also abutters. Suggestions for any others to be invited should be given to Joey.
- **Phragmites:** Brad and Luana Preston, who live next to Kelwyn Manor Park, walked the area with Ellen Reed of the Con Com. Luana says maybe 40 years ago what is now a phragmites thicket was cattails. (There is still a small patch of cattails left). Some benches in the park which used to look out on the pond now have the view blocked by phragmites. Once you could see the bases of the trees on the island, now obscured by another stand of phragmites.

Brad will try to get old pictures of what the vegetation used to be since the state doesn't accept anecdotal evidence. He got permission from the Con Com to treat phragmites invading his property with "Rodeo" (which can be used in late September – October). After removing phragmites, buffer vegetation needs to be put between a lawn and the pond. Cattails would provide substitute habitat for red-winged blackbirds. Going after phragmites could be a spring project for the committee.

- **Management plan for Spy Pond:** to be discussed in December. Elizabeth will circulate the draft.
- Jacob reported that a **green dye** recently flowed out of the big Rt. 2 drain, which turned out to be from a dye bomb used by Belmont to check what flows into that drain.